

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-21, 23-33, 35-40, and 45-59 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1-20, 35-40, and 45 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 21, 23-33, and 46-55 are allowed.

By this Amendment, Claims 56-59 have been amended. Applicant submits that support for the amendments can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added.

Claims 57 and 59 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,795,082 (Shimada, et al.). Claims 56 and 58 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimada, et al. in view U.S. No. 5,692,111 (Marbry, et al.). Applicant traverses these rejections.

As recited in independent Claims 56-59, Applicant's invention is generally directed to a printer driver. The printer driver generates an image rasterized according to an instruction of a print process, and judges whether or not the rasterized image generated thereby represents a specific image for which printing is prohibited. In Claims 56 and 59, the printer driver is downloaded through a network. In Claims 57 and 59, the printer driver is included in an operating system.

Accordingly, as recited in each of the independent claims, a module or means is provided for judging whether or not the rasterized image represents a specific image for which printing is prohibited.

Shimada, et al. describes a printer driver. That document describes that a recording ratio is changed based on the tone data received. Applicant submits,

however, that this patent does not describe judging whether or not a rasterized image is a specific image prohibited from being printed.

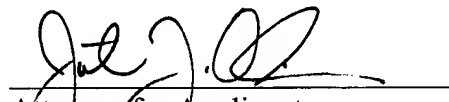
Marbry, et al. is directed to a printer system. The Office Action cites this document as describing the downloading of a printer driver through a network. Again, however, Applicant submits that this document does not describe judging whether or not a rasterized image to be printed has been prohibited.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Shimada, et al. and Marby, et al., taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least the features of judging whether or not a rasterized image generated by a rasterizer/rasterizing means represents a specific image for which printing is prohibited, as recited in each of independent Claims 56-59.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103 and allowance of the application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant
Justin J. Oliver
Registration No. 44,986

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
BLK/lmj